



**CITY OF HEREFORD.**

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**1926.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

AND OF THE

**SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.**

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HEREFORD:

Printed by The Hereford Times, Ltd., Maylord Street.

1927.





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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND OF THE  
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

BY

A. MIDDLETON BROWN,  
M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH ;  
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CITY ISOLATION HOSPITALS ;  
MEDICAL OFFICER TO THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE ;  
AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

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HEREFORD :

Printed by The Hereford Times Ltd., Maylord Street.

# CITY OF HEREFORD.

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## Health Committee :

Councillor R. H. SYMONDS-TAYLER, Mayor.

Councillor E. F. BULMER, Chairman.

Alderman G. B. GREENLAND. Councillor J. V. SHAW, M.B., Ch.B.

Councillor A. KEAR. Councillor F. LEWIS SMITH.

Councillor J. E. H. NOLAN. Councillor P. H. VAUGHAN.

Councillor A. E. POWER.

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## Maternity and Child Welfare Committee :

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, with Alderman E. L. WALLIS  
(Chairman of the Care Committee).

Mesdames S. E. ALLCOCK, C. A. J. BRITTEN, E. F. BULMER,  
F. JACKSON, G. MINES, and Miss KRABBÉ.

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## Housing Acts Committee :

Councillor R. H. SYMONDS-TAYLER, Mayor.

Alderman G. B. GREENLAND, Chairman.

Councillor F. W. ALLCOCK. Councillor J. V. SHAW, M.B., Ch.B.

Councillor W. C. BOLT. Councillor A. HILES SMITH.

Councillor A. KEAR. Councillor F. LEWIS SMITH.

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R. BATTERSBY, Town Clerk.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

*March, 1927.*

**To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the  
City of Hereford.**

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health of the City for the year 1926, as required by Article 14 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, and the Report on the School Medical Service for the same period.

NEW LEGISLATION.—Your Council has adopted part of the Public Health Act, 1925, and the whole Act has been in operation in the City from 1st January, 1927. An important Order relating to the supervision of cleanliness, etc., in the Milk Industry came into operation on the 1st October, 1926. There have been regulations passed dealing with the notification of Puerperal Infections, and Ophthalmia of the newly born, and there has been an Order amending the recent Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Regulations.

HOUSING.—During the year 27 houses were completed by private enterprise, and 100 as part of a Municipal Housing Scheme. In the list of houses kept under Article 27 of the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, there appear 123 houses which will be represented as unfit as occasion arises, and there are a further 193 houses which are below a reasonable standard of fitness. Closing Orders made in respect of two dwelling houses were determined after the houses had been rendered fit for human habitation.

STATISTICS.—The Death rate for 1926 was 11.8, the Birth rate 16.9, and the Infantile Mortality rate 64. The corresponding rates for England and Wales were Death rate 11.6, Birth rate 17.8, and Infantile Mortality rate 70. The population of the City,

as estimated by the Registrar General at 30th June, 1926, was 25,020, or 660 more than at 30th June, 1925. The excess of births over deaths in the City during the period was 164, so that there appears to have been considerable immigration into the City.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—There were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease during 1926. There were fewer cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever than in 1925, and both diseases continue to be of a mild type. There were no cases of Typhoid Fever.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.—Nine hundred and ninety children were medically inspected in the course of Routine Medical Inspections at the Schools, and 1,448 children received treatment at the Minor Ailment Clinic. The problem of the verminous child still remains a difficult one.

In conclusion, I have to acknowledge the sympathetic consideration you have given to all matters I have laid before you, the loyal co-operation of the staff of the Health Department, and the kind assistance of your other officials.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. MIDDLETON BROWN, M.D.



# CITY OF HEREFORD.

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## 1926.

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### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,031 acres
Population (1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,250
Estimated Population to the middle of 1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,020
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,217
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,566
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£140,748	0s. 0d.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£586	9s. 0d.

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### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Births.—Legitimate	398	185	213
Illegitimate	25	14	11
Birth Rate as given by Registrar-General	...	...	16.9
	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Deaths	295	143	152
Death Rate as given by Registrar-General	...	...	11.8
Number of Women Dying in, or in consequence of Child Birth :—			
(1). From Sepsis	...	...	1
(2). From other causes	...	...	0
Deaths of Infants under one year per 1,000 Births	...	...	64
Legitimate, 27. Illegitimate, 1. Total, 28.			
Deaths from Measles, all ages	...	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough, all ages	...	...	0
„ „ Diarrhœa, under two years of age	...	...	5



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

### HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

A. (1) **Fever.**—The City Hospital is situated on high ground near the City boundary, and has accommodation for 32 patients.

(2) **Smallpox.**—The Smallpox Hospital is situated near the City Fever Hospital, and has accommodation for 12 patients.

B. (1) **Tuberculosis.**—Nieuport House Sanatorium, 62 beds (34 adults and 28 children).

(2) **Maternity.**—None.

(3) **Children.**—None.

(4) **Other.**—Apart from the Workhouse and Children's Home provided by the Board of Guardians, there is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children in the City. There is an Orphanage for Roman Catholic children, and also an Industrial School for Boys in the City.

**Ambulance Facilities.**—(a) The Local Authority owns a horse-drawn ambulance for infectious cases and hand ambulance for police cases.

(b) A private motor ambulance is available for hire in the City for non-infectious cases, and the Rural District Council Motor Ambulance for infectious cases is available for long distance journeys.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres :—

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Nature of Accommodation.</i>	<i>By whom founded.</i>
Maternity and Child Welfare Consultations.	St. Owen Street adjacent to Town Hall.	Waiting Room. Weighing Room. Consultation Room.	Hereford U.D. Local Authority.
School Clinic for Minor Ailments.	Town Hall.	Waiting Room. Inspection & Treat- ment Rooms. Record Office.	Hereford U.D. Local Authority.
School Clinic for Dental, Refrac- tion, and Ear and Throat work.	St. Owen Street, adjacent to Town Hall.	Waiting Room, Operating Room. Recovery Room. Dark Room.	Hereford U.D. Local Authority
Tuberculosis Dis- pensary.	St. Peter Street.	Consulting Room. Waiting Room.	Herefordshire County Council.
V.D. Centre.	Hereford Union. Infirmary. Isolation Block.	1 Kitchen. 1 Treatment Room. 2 Waiting Rooms. Irrigating Room. Lavatory Accom- modation.	Herefordshire County Council



PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

NAME.	Qualifications.	Office held.	Whole or Part time.	Salary contributed to under P.H.A. or by Exchequer.	Other Public Office.
A. MIDDLETON BROWN ...	M.A., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part ...	Yes ...	School Medical Officer. Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospitals. Police Surgeon.
W. T. RIGBY ...	F.I.C.	City Analyst ...	Part ...	—	—
S. PROTHEROE ...	Cert. R.S.I.	Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and Housing Act ...	Whole ...	Yes ...	—
T. W. BERISFORD ...	—	Sanitary Assistant ...	Whole ...	No ...	—
MISS G. CLARKE ...	Trained Nurse Cert. R.S.I., Cert. C.M.B.	Health Visitor ...	Part ...	Yes ...	School Nurse
MISS M. M. SCOURFIELD ...	Trained Nurse Cert. C.M.B.	Health Visitor ...	Part ...	Yes ...	School Nurse
MISS E. M. TARBUTT ...	Trained Nurse Cert. R.S.I., Cert. C.M.B.	Health Visitor ...	Part ...	Yes ...	School Nurse
MISS D. BURN ...	—	Clerk ...	Part ...	No ...	Clerk in School Medical Department
G. GAY ...	—	Clerk ...	Whole ...	No ...	—
* MISS C. BUDINGER ...	—	Matron Isolation Hospital	Whole ...	No ...	—
E. GOODE ...	—	Disinfecter ...	Whole ...	No ...	—
A. ENGLAND ...	—	Abattoir Superintendent	Whole ...	No ...	—

\* In addition to the Matron, the female staff of the Isolation Hospital consists of three nurses, a cook, and a laundrymaid.

**Professional Nursing in the Home.**—(a) District nursing is carried out by the staff of the Hereford City Nursing and Maternity Society.

(b) There are no special arrangements for the home nursing of infectious disease in the homes ; the School Nurses visit children who are known to be suffering from infectious diseases, such as measles, whooping cough, etc., and give directions to the parents as required.

There are four private Nursing Homes in the City.

**Midwives.**—The 16 Midwives practising in the City are under the supervision of the County Public Health Department.

**Chemical Work.**—Chemical analysis of water is carried out at the County and City Laboratory and by the City Analyst. The analysis of water is referred to on page 9.

**Rag Flock Act, 1911.**—Two samples of rag flock were submitted to the City Analyst, who certified them to conform to the standard of cleanliness laid down in the Regulations of 1912.

### LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

The following Acts, Adoptive Acts, Byelaws and Local Regulations, relating to the Public Health are in force in the District :—

The Hereford Improvement Act, 1854 and 1872.

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890. (April, 1891.)

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Parts 2, 3, and 4). (April, 1891.)

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Part 1 ; Sections 15 and 16, 18 to 24, 26 to 33, of Part 2 ; Sections 34 to 37, 43, 45 to 51, of Part 3 ; Parts 4, 5, and 6 ; Sections 78 to 81, 83 to 86, of Part 7. Parts 8, 9, and 10. (April, 1910.)

The Public Health Act, 1925, Parts 2, 3, 4, and 5. (January, 1927.)

### Byelaws.

Good Rule and Government and Prevention of Nuisances. (1903.)

Slaughterhouses. (Public.) (1866.)

Slaughterhouses. (1903.)

Management of the Public Slaughterhouses. (1916.)

Cattle, Poultry, Butter, Fish, Vegetable and Butchers' Markets. (1871 and 1879.)

Cleansing of Footways and Pavements, the Cleansing of Earth Closets and Cesspools and Removal of House Refuse. (1903.)

Nuisances. (1903.)

Common Lodging Houses. (1903.)

Offensive Trades. (1903.)

Pleasure Grounds and Open Spaces. (1910.)

Regulating the Employment of Children and Young Persons. (1920.)

Regulations for preventing waste, misuse, undue consumption or the contamination of Water. (1900.)

Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structures. (1922.)

New Streets and Buildings. (October, 1926.)

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER.

There has been no extension of the town mains during the year.

Samples of the town water supply have been examined from time to time bacteriologically, and found satisfactory.

There are 77 houses in the City supplied by 46 wells. Of these, 60 are outside the system of the town mains. The districts are as follows :—

	<i>Houses.</i>	<i>Wells.</i>
Hunderton ... ..	1	1
Grafton and Red Hill ... ..	7	6
Bullingham ... ..	15	7
Putson ... ..	15	8
Hampton Park and Tupsley ... ..	9	5
Aylestone Hill ... ..	2	2
Canon Moor ... ..	4	2
King's Acre and Huntington ... ..	19	12
Holmer ... ..	4	2
Westfields ... ..	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	77	46
	<hr/>	<hr/>

During the year the use of one well supplying two houses for drinking and domestic purposes was discontinued, and the City supply laid on to each house. Five samples of water from four wells were submitted for chemical analysis, and were reported to be fit for drinking and domestic purposes.



## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Two contraventions of Section 47 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, were dealt with in respect to the throwing of matter into the River Wye likely to cause annoyance.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Sewers were laid in the two new streets at Westfields to receive the drainage from the sixty houses being erected by the Council. They discharge into the Grandstand Road sewer.

The public sewer in Coningsby Street and portions of that in Blackfriars Street have been cleaned out and manholes inserted at essential points. The sewer in Edgar Street from Blackfriars Street to Moor Street was under reconstruction at the end of the year.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No conversions from the conservancy system into the water-carriage system were carried out under notice during the year, but at one house it was found that, without notice, a hand-flushed water-closet had been substituted for a pail-closet.

The following list shows the number of houses and types of closets in the outlying districts at the end of the year. Except in a few instances, the houses are outside the City sewerage system :—

	<i>Houses.</i>	<i>Privies.</i>	<i>Pail * Closets.</i>	<i>Earth Closets</i>
Hunderton and Belmont Road...	5	3	2	—
Breinton and Broomy Hill ...	7	1	5	1
Grafton and Red Hill ... ..	4	1	4	—
Bullingham ... ..	10	3	5	—
Putson ... ..	14	3	9	—
Hampton Park and Tupsley ...	28	3	19	2
Aylestone Hill ... ..	13	3	6	4
Canon Moor ... ..	4	—	4	—
King's Acre and Huntington ...	22	7	15	1
Holmer ... ..	14	7	8	1
Westfields ... ..	4	1	4	—
Other Districts ... ..	7	1	6	—
	<hr/> 132	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 87	<hr/> 9

## SCAVENGING.

Owing to the development of the Westfields and Three Elms districts, the area of collection of refuse has been extended.

Two four-wheel refuse carts, two tumbler sludge carts, and two rotary sweepers have been purchased during the year.



House refuse is collected weekly, and in some districts bi-weekly, under the supervision of the City Surveyor. All domestic refuse, together with a large amount of trade refuse, is taken to the new Destructor, centrally situated and erected in 1924. This is one of the most modern and efficient Refuse Disposal Plants in the country, and is capable of dealing with the whole of the City's refuse.

The cleansing of earth closets and cesspools is carried out by the occupiers of the houses under the Byelaws with respect thereto.

All new houses are provided with movable galvanized ash-bins, and the substitution of such for other receptacles is gradually being dealt with ; 131 galvanized bins were provided during the year.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

(a). Particulars of visits and inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector and Assistant during the year are as follows :—

Nuisances	...	...	...	...	1378
Works in progress	...	...	...	...	138
Housing Act	...	...	...	...	101
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	122
Factory and Workshop Act	...	...	...	...	107
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	48
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	77
Public Abattoir	...	...	...	...	52
Food-preparing Places	...	...	...	...	89
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	117
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	15
Schools and Public Buildings	...	...	...	...	11
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	89
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	182
Total	...	...	...	...	<hr/> 2526 <hr/>

(b & c). The following table shows the number of notices served and complied with :—

Statute or Byelaw.	Notices not complied with at end of 1925.	Notices served 1926.		Complied with 1926.	Notices not complied with at end of 1926.
		Preliminary.	Statutory.		
Public Health Acts ...	98	418	13	479	50
Factory & Workshop Act..	1	9	—	10	—
Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act ...	—	1	—	1	—
Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order ...	—	50	—	49	1
City Byelaws ...	—	23	1	23	1
Totals ...	99	501	14	562	52
		515			

In addition to the above notices, 290 letters were written by the Inspector, and 131 reports made to other Departments. Forty-nine reports dealing with infectious disease, and 38 dealing with miscellaneous matters were also made.

There were 186 complaints investigated, and 11 tests applied to drainage (9 by water and 2 by smoke).

### DEFECTS OR NUISANCES.

#### DRAINAGE.

Obstructed drains opened and cleansed ...	85
Defective drainage repaired or relaid ...	22
Houses with insufficient drainage, extra provided ...	2
Houses and buildings connected to public sewer ...	—
Drains disconnected from discharging into river ...	—
Glazed stoneware gully traps fixed ...	23
Drains removed from inside or underneath houses ...	1
Intercepting traps fixed ...	3
Inspection chambers constructed ...	8
Inspection chambers repaired ...	6
Ventilating shafts fixed or repaired ...	2
Cesspools abolished ...	—

## WATER-CLOSETS, PRIVIES AND URINALS.

Obstructions to W.C.'s removed	...	...	...	18
Dirty basins of W.C.'s cleansed	...	...	...	10
W.C.'s repaired or erected	...	...	...	36
Insufficient accommodation, extra W.C.'s erected	...	...	...	2
W.C.'s removed from cellars and kitchens	...	...	...	—
Pedestal basins fixed	...	...	...	16
New " wash-down " basins fixed	...	...	...	4
Water supply provided to W.C.'s	...	...	...	7
Flushing apparatus repaired or new provided	...	...	...	57
Ventilation provided to W.C.'s	...	...	...	2
Dirty walls of W.C.'s limewashed	...	...	...	13
Soil-pipes repaired or new provided	...	...	...	2
Water-closets substituted for privies and pail closets	...	...	...	1
Privies and pail closets abolished	...	...	...	1
Urinals repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	1

## DWELLING HOUSES, Etc.

Houses closed under Closing Orders	...	...	...	10
Houses demolished voluntarily or under Demolition Orders	...	...	...	6
Buildings not constructed for habitation discontinued..	...	...	...	—
Dilapidated and dirty houses repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	47
Damp courses inserted	...	...	...	—
Houses cleansed after infection...	...	...	...	1
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	29
Spouting repaired or new provided	...	...	...	59
Chimneys and fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	20
Floors relaid or repaired	...	...	...	25
Doors repaired or new provided	...	...	...	21
Staircases and windows repaired	...	...	...	56
Ventilation provided to bedrooms	...	...	...	12
Food pantries provided...	...	...	...	6
Galvanized refuse bins provided	...	...	...	131
Town water supply laid on to houses	...	...	...	2
Disused wells filled up	...	...	...	3
Yards and passages paved or repaired	...	...	...	15
Washhouses repaired or erected	...	...	...	10
Washing boilers provided	...	...	...	23
Dirty walls of washhouses limewashed	...	...	...	15

## SINKS AND WASTE-PIPES.

Dilapidated sinks repaired	...	...	...	7
New glazed stoneware sinks fixed	...	...	...	1
Waste-pipes repaired or new provided	...	...	...	7
Waste-pipes and rain-water pipes disconnected over gullies	...	...	...	22



## KEEPING OF ANIMALS AND MANURE.

Nuisances from poultry and animals abated ... ..	15
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed ... ..	25
Manure and refuse pits abolished ... ..	2

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Contraventions of Byelaws with respect to Caravans...	9
Verminous bedding destroyed ... ..	—
Dairies and Cowsheds limewashed after notice ... ..	80
Town water laid on to Dairies ... ..	1
Improved arrangements provided for cleansing milk vessels, etc. ... ..	1
Bakehouses cleansed after notice ... ..	1
Food preparing places cleansed after notice ... ..	1
Workshops cleansed after notice ... ..	—
Miscellaneous nuisances abated ... ..	20

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

It has not been necessary to take any action in regard to nuisances arising from smoke.

## PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

There are no Registered Common Lodging Houses in the City. There are a few houses which are let in lodgings, but Byelaws have not been adopted with respect to these. Byelaws as to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., were adopted in 1922, and during the year action was taken in 14 instances in connection with water supply and conveniences. Action was also taken in nine instances for contraventions of the Byelaws with respect to Nuisances.

There are four tripe boilers, a gut scraper, and two hide and skin depots in the City. No action has been necessary under the Byelaws with respect to Offensive Trades.

There being no underground sleeping-rooms, it is not necessary to make regulations under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1925.

## RAT DESTRUCTION.

In January the Council authorised the Health Committee to make arrangements with a rat-catcher, Mr. Charles Davies, to organise a rat week in the City. Mr. Davies advertised his scheme and circularised the town. He distributed about 120,000 baits and estimated that about 20,000 rats were destroyed.

## SCHOOLS.

No Schools were closed during the year by the Medical Officer of Health to prevent the spread of infectious disease under Article 57 of the Code.



# LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

No. of Summons.	Statute under which proceedings were instituted.	OFFENCE.	Fines.		Costs.		REMARKS.
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
1.	Byelaws with respect to Tents, Vansheds, &c.	Failing to provide a sufficient supply of water.	5	0	—	—	Caravans left the City.
1.	Ditto.	Failing to provide closet accommodation and refuse receptacle.	5	0	—	—	Ditto.
1.	Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.	Neglecting to cover and screen a stall.	0	10 0	2	0	
			£1	0 0	£0	2 0	

**FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.**

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

<i>Premises.</i> (1)	<i>Number of</i>		
	<i>Inspections</i> (2)	<i>Written Notices.</i> (3)	<i>Occupiers prosecuted.</i> (4)
FACTORIES ... .. (Including Factory Laundries)	45	2	—
WORKSHOPS ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	25	2	—
WORKPLACES ... .. (other than Outworkers' Premises)	37	5	—
TOTAL ... ..	107	9	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

<i>Particulars.</i> (1)	<i>Number of Defects.</i>			<i>Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted.</i> (5)
	<i>Found.</i> (2)	<i>Remedied.</i> (3)	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector.</i> (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ... ..	1	1	—	—
Want of ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ... ..	4	4	—	—
Sanitary accommodation :—				
Insufficient ... ..	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ... ..	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences ... ..	1	1	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total ... ..	9	9	—	—

\* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3.—OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.

NIL.

## HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1926.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	127
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—							
(1) By the Local Authority...	...	...					100
(2) By other bodies or persons	...	...					12

### 1. Unfit Dwelling-houses :—

Inspection.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
(2). Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
(3). Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
(4). Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...							14

### 2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
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### 3. Action under Statutory Powers :—

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2). Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—						
(a). By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b). By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	—
(3). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	...	...	...	...	...	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	47
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(2). Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a). By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b). By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	—

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1). Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	11
(2). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	10
(3). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	2
(4). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	4
(5). Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	4

Two houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made were demolished without the making of Demolition Orders.

The owner of a house in respect of which a Closing Order was made appealed to the Minister of Health, but the appeal was afterwards withdrawn, and the question of making a Demolition Order has now to be considered.

#### **Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1923.**

Two certificates were granted upon application during the year, both upon the ground that the houses were not in a reasonable state of repair.

### **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

#### **(a) MILK SUPPLY.**

The average composition of the samples of Milk produced within or brought into the City, purchased under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act during the year, was :—

				<i>Quarter ending</i>			
				<i>March.</i>	<i>June.</i>	<i>September.</i>	<i>December</i>
Solids not Fat	...	...	...	8.57	8.7	8.5	8.9
Fat	...	...	...	4.04	3.6	3.0	3.7
Total Solids	...	...	...	12.61	12.3	11.5	12.6

The minimum required by the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1901, is :—Solids not fat, 8.5, and fat, 3 per cent. The City Analyst reported the whole of the samples to be genuine and of good quality, free from preservatives, artificial colouring matter, and excessive amounts of extraneous dirt.



## MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Subject to certain provisions, this Order came into operation on the first day of October, 1926, and the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders, 1885—99, were revoked.

All persons who carry on the trade of cowkeeper, and/or dairymen, whether wholesale or retail, in the City, and all dairies are registered by the Local Authority. After consulting the Ministry of Health as to procedure, all names appearing on the old registers were transferred to the new registers required to be kept under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Order of 1926. An intimation was sent to these, along with a pamphlet setting out the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Order. One cowkeeper and wholesale purveyor of milk in the City and two outside the City replied that they did not wish to be registered under the Order.

At the end of the year there were the names of 66 retail purveyors of milk and 37 cowkeepers, dairymen and wholesale purveyors of milk, and the addresses of 43 dairies on the registers. Of the 66 retail purveyors, 28 come from outside the City, and 18 of the 37 wholesale purveyors.

In May and October the usual circular letters were sent, drawing attention to the requirements in regard to limewashing cowsheds and dairies.

## MILK AND DAIRIES (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1915.

No cases have arisen to be taken under Section 4 in respect to tuberculous milk and tuberculous cattle. Cattle found to be tuberculous at the Public Abattoir are dealt with by the Health Department, the carcasses or portions being destroyed at the Destructor.

## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1923.

One supplementary licence to sell "Grade A" milk from premises which are outside the City has been granted during the year to the holder of the principal licence granted by the Hereford Rural District Council. No other licences have been applied for under the Order.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

The City Council in September authorised a scheme for the submission of samples of milk (not exceeding ten in any one year) to the Clinical Research Association for complete bacteriological examination under Section 10 of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915. The scheme was approved by the Ministry of Health in November, and two samples were taken on December 14th, 1926.

The following is the report :—

	<i>Bacteria per c.c.</i>		<i>Bacillus Coli in</i>		<i>Tubercle Bacilli.</i>
			$\frac{1}{100}$	$\frac{1}{1000}$	
No. 1	...	58.333	...	+	—
No. 2	...	76.333	...	+	—

(b) MEAT, ETC.

There are no private slaughterhouses in the City, the last one being closed under the Hereford Improvement Act, 1872, in 1914.

All meat slaughtered at the Public Abattoir is inspected, and the following diseased conditions were found during the year. The carcasses, or portions, were voluntarily surrendered, and were destroyed at the Destructor :—

Cows—

Tuberculosis (local)	...	...	...	5
Abscesses	...	...	...	3
Actinomycosis	...	...	...	1
Emaciation	...	...	...	2

BULLOCKS—

Abscesses	...	...	...	2
-----------	-----	-----	-----	---

HEIFERS—

Tuberculosis (local)	...	...	...	2
Emaciation	...	...	...	1

CALVES—

Congestion of internal organs	...	...	...	2
Injury	...	...	...	1

SHEEP—

Pleurisy	...	...	...	7
Anæmia	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	4
Abscesses	...	...	...	6
Ill bled and ill set	...	...	...	1
Emaciation	...	...	...	7
Injury	...	...	...	6

PIGS—

Peritonitis...	...	...	...	1
Pleurisy	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	7
Urticaria	...	...	...	7
Injury	...	...	...	2

The Public Abattoir is under the supervision of a resident manager, who, in addition to seeing that Byelaws with respect thereto are carried out, personally uses the humane killer on large animals. The following are particulars of the number of animals

slaughtered or deposited at the Abattoir during the year :—Beeves, 2,263 ; Calves, 826 ; Sheep, 7,795 ; Lambs, 4,764 ; and Pigs, 3,840 ; total, 19,488, as compared with 16,988 in 1925.

The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector have been duly authorised by the Authority under Article 4 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the Regulations are being observed.

#### OTHER FOODS.

The following unsound food was voluntarily surrendered for destruction :—80 lbs. of imported beef, 20 lbs. of sausages, 20 trout, 200 herrings, one box of kippers, 22½ cwt. of oranges, 20 lbs. of imported apples, 175 lbs. of imported grapes, 5 cwt. of onions, and a dressed turkey. In addition, 27 tins of meat, 16 of milk, 35 of fruit, 18 of tomatoes, 4 of vegetables, 15 of fish and one of soup were voluntarily surrendered.

#### (c) ADULTERATION, Etc.

The following table shows the number and nature of the articles submitted to the Public Analyst during the year and the result of the analysis :—

ARTICLES.			Number Purchased		Number Genuine		Number Adulterated	
			Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Milk	...	...	11	25	9	21	2	4
Condensed Milk	...	...	—	2	—	2	—	—
Cream	...	...	—	2	—	2	—	—
Butter	...	...	—	7	—	7	—	—
Margarine	...	...	—	3	—	3	—	—
Lard	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Coffee	...	...	—	4	—	4	—	—
Cocoa	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Mustard	...	...	—	2	—	2	—	—
Pepper	...	...	—	2	—	2	—	—
Ground Ginger	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Rice	...	...	—	2	—	2	—	—
Demerara Sugar	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Honey	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Sponge Cake	...	...	—	2	—	2	—	—
Baking Powder	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Gregory's Powder	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Bicarbonate of Soda.	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cream of Tartar	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Ammon. Tinc. Quinine	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Tincture of Rhubarb	...	...	—	2	—	2	—	—
Imported Apples	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Totals ...			11	64	9	60	2	4
			75		69		6	



## OBSERVATIONS.

MILK.—All the samples were free from preservatives and artificial colouring matter. An “Informal” sample, while of good quality chemically, contained an excessive amount of extraneous dirt, namely, 3 parts per 100,000. The attention of the vendor was drawn to this, and further samples were found to be satisfactory.

Of the 11 “Formal” samples, 8 were certified to be genuine and of good quality, one as down to the limit fixed by the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1901, in regard to fat, and two deficient of 20 per cent. of fat. The two latter were taken in consequence of an “informal” sample being certified to be of the same deficiency. A sample taken at the farm four days later showed a deficiency of 30 per cent., and later of 10 per cent. After enquiries and the taking of further samples, which were certified to be genuine, it was evident that the variation in the quality of the milk was accounted for by the difference in the interval of time between one milking and another.

Of the 25 “informal” samples, 17 were certified to be genuine and of good quality, 3 to be deficient in fat as referred to above, and one to contain 14 per cent. of added water. This was followed by “formal” samples, which proved genuine, and from an explanation offered by the vendor in respect to the “informal” sample, it appeared to have been sold in error.

CREAM.—The two samples were genuine, of good quality, and free from Boric Acid preservative.

BUTTER.—The seven samples were genuine, and free from admixture with foreign fat. The moisture content varied from 10.6 per cent. to 13.4 per cent. Six samples were free from Boric Acid, the other containing 0.2 per cent.

MARGARINE.—The three samples were genuine, the moisture content varied from 10.5 per cent. to 12.6 per cent., and all were free from Boric Acid.

RICE.—The two samples were genuine and free from facing materials.

IMPORTED APPLES.—The sample contained 1/200th of a grain of Arsenic per pound, which quantity was well within the limit suggested by the Royal Commission on Arsenical Poisoning (1903).

OTHER ARTICLES.—All these were genuine and of good quality.

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### SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1899.

No wholesale dealers in Margarine or Margarine Cheese were registered during the year, and there are four premises registered wherein the business is carried on.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (CONDENSED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1923.

Two samples of Condensed Milk were submitted for analysis. Both were genuine and of good quality and complied with the Regulations.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (MILK AND CREAM) REGULATIONS, 1912 & 1917.

#### 1. MILK AND CREAM NOT SOLD AS PRESERVED CREAM :—

	<i>Number of samples examined for the presence of a preservative.</i>		<i>Number in which preservative was reported to be present.</i>	
Milk	...	36	...	Nil.
Cream	...	2	...	Nil.

#### 2. CREAM SOLD AS PRESERVED CREAM.

(a). Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preservatives were correct - - - Nil.

(c). There have been no instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of cream have not been observed.

#### 3. THICKENING SUBSTANCES.

There was no evidence of their addition to the samples of cream.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The table overleaf shows that there has been no serious incidence of notifiable infectious disease during the year. Both Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria are of a mild type. One case of Laryngeal Diphtheria died six hours after admission to Hospital.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.													CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.													TOTAL DEATHS.															
	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	Over 65 years	Total.	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	Over 65 years	Total.	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	Over 65 years	Total.			
Diphtheria	...	1	1	1	2	16	5	4	4	1	...	...	34	...	1	1	...	2	13	5	4	3	1	...	...	29	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Scarlet Fever	...	1	...	1	...	7	5	3	1	...	...	...	18	...	...	...	1	...	6	3	1	1	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Enteric Fever, including Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is available free of charge to all necessitous cases. This can be obtained at the Health Department, or after office hours at the City Police Station. During the year 112,000 units were supplied to such cases.

There were no cases of Malaria, Dysentery, or Trench Fever.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the County Health Department. These include the examination of swabs for Diphtheria—sputum for Tuberculosis—and blood for Widal reaction. There are no facilities for investigation by animal inoculation. Wasserman reactions are carried out at the Birmingham University. Specimens of Diphtheria cultures are sent to Birmingham University for virulence tests.

Reports on specimens submitted by Medical Practitioners from City patients are sent to the Medical Officer of Health of the City for his information. This is useful in controlling the notification of such diseases as Diphtheria, Tuberculosis and Enteric Fever.

The following table gives a summary of the work done for the City during the year 1926 :—

				<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
For Diphtheria Bacilli	...	...		139	417	556
„ Typhoid Bacilli	...	...		—	7	7
„ Tubercle Bacilli—						
(1) Sputum	...	...		26	131	157
(2) Urine	...	...		—	1	1
„ Gonorrhœa (including specimens from V.D. Clinic)	...			27	34	61
Urine for—						
(1) Albumen	...	...		—	2	2
(2) Pus	...	...		—	4	4
(3) Sugar	...	...		—	2	2
(4) Casts	...	...		—	—	—
				—	—	—
Totals	...	...		192	598	790
				—	—	—

A list of all contacts is made of cases of infectious disease. In the case of Diphtheria, the contacts are examined bacteriologically for the carrier state.

Schick and Dick tests and artificial methods of immunization against Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever have not been carried out in the district, nor have there been any vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox) Regulations, 1917.

All cases of non-notifiable infectious disease which come to the notice of the Head Teachers are reported to the School Medical Officer and are visited by the School Nurses. Certain cases are visited by the Medical Officer of Health if no private doctor is in attendance.



CLEANSING AND DISINFECTION.

There is no Cleansing Station for verminous persons in the City.

The following are particulars in regard to disinfection of rooms, bedding, etc. :—

<i>Disease.</i>			<i>Rooms.</i>		<i>Bedding.</i>	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	17	...	15	
Diphtheria	...	...	26	...	26	
Puerperal Fever	...	...	2	...	2	
Pneumonia	...	...	1	...	1	
Phthisis	...	...	23	...	13	
Other Diseases	...	...	37	...	8	
Totals			106	...	65	

The whole of the rooms were disinfected by formalin vapour, and the bedding, etc., by steam. The disinfection by steam is carried out at the Isolation Hospital by means of a “ Manlove Alliott ” high pressure steam disinfector.

In addition, six wards at the Herefordshire General Hospital were disinfected after infectious disease, and five tuberculosis shelters. Ten Public Library books were also disinfected. Two Public Library books and one private book were retained, and three lots of bedding were destroyed. The wearing apparel of a midwife and a sailor’s kit were disinfected.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No cases were notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1— 5	...	...	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1
5—10	...	...	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	—
10—15	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15—20	...	...	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	1
20—25	...	...	2	6	—	—	1	2	—	—
25—35	...	...	7	7	—	—	4	7	—	—
35—45	...	...	—	4	—	—	1	1	—	1
45—55	...	...	1	2	—	—	2	2	—	—
55—65	...	...	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			13	22	4	2	11	12	5	3

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to the total Tuberculosis deaths was 3:31.

There were three non-notified Tuberculosis deaths during the year—male, aged 28 years, and females, aged 31 and 3 years. In all cases the attention of the Medical Attendant was drawn to the omission, and an explanation was submitted.

## PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Enquiries were made and it was ascertained that no person notified as suffering from Tuberculosis was employed in contravention of these Regulations. The attention of all applicants for registration under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, is drawn to these regulations.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

No orders for the compulsory removal of advanced cases of Tuberculosis have been made. No hospital accommodation is provided by the County Council for such cases.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

### BIRTHS.

Total notified, 439.

Still Births—20 (12 males and 8 females).

Births notified by	Midwives	...	...	...	393
„	„	Medical Practitioners	...	...	20
„	„	Midwives and Medical Practitioners	...	...	20
„	„	Parents	...	...	6
					439

### DEATHS.

There were 27 deaths of Infants under one year. This is equal to a rate of 64 per thousand births compared with the rate of 70 for England and Wales.

### MATERNAL DEATHS.

During 1926 there was one death from Puerperal Sepsis. All maternal deaths are fully investigated by the Medical Officer of Health.

### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No cases were notified during the year.

## VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS.

First Visits	...	...	...	...	451
Second „	...	...	...	...	482
Third „	...	...	...	...	386
Fourth „	...	...	...	...	294
Fifth „	...	...	...	...	246
Sixth „	...	...	...	...	231
					<hr/>
TOTAL VISITS TO INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR...					2,090
					<hr/>
TOTAL VISITS TO CHILDREN FROM ONE TO					
FIVE YEARS	...	...	...	...	1,247
					<hr/>

## INFANT FEEDING.

Of the 451 Infants visited during the year—

358 or 79 per cent. were entirely breast-fed.

30 or 7 per cent. were partly breast-fed.

21 or 5 per cent. were breast-fed and afterwards bottle-fed.

42 or 9 per cent. were entirely bottle-fed.

## SUPPLY OF MILK TO NURSING AND EXPECTANT MOTHERS AND INFANTS.

During the year 3,146 pints of Milk were distributed under the Scheme approved by the Ministry of Health.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE, 135, ST. OWEN STREET.

The Centre was open on 105 sessions during the year. The Centre days are Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and longer if necessary.

The Medical Officer attends all sessions, and sees all mothers with their infants attending for the first time and such other mothers and children as are referred to him by the Health Visitors. Advice is given on infant hygiene and management. All infants and children who are found to be suffering from any definite ailment or defect are referred for treatment to a private doctor or through some of the charitable institutions. The function of the Infant Welfare Centre is educative and preventive.

During the year 554 mothers made 3,543 attendances. The attendances of children under one year numbered 2,520, and over one year 840. Children up to five years of age may be brought to the Centre.

Of the 554 mothers, 43 came from the adjacent rural district, outside the City. These 43 mothers made 258 attendances. In addition, 114 children made 479 attendances for treatment of minor ailments.

The following table shows the great increase in the attendances at the Centre during the last six years. The large increase



in the attendances of children between one and five years is a gratifying feature, as it is often found that the ex-baby is apt to suffer from lack of attention when a younger one is born.

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Number of mothers attending ... ..	250	244	346	476	496	554
Number of attendances made by mothers ...	1,470	1,364	2,148	3,129	3,086	3,543
Number of attendances made by children under one year ...	1,257	1,186	1,855	2,280	2,418	2,520
Number of attendances made by children from one to five years old	298	258	734	995	1,178	1,840

I have again to thank the voluntary lady helpers for their kind assistance at the Infant Welfare Centre. To their devoted work much of the success is due. A nursery is provided on the first floor, where the elder children may play while their mothers are engaged with the babies. Instruction is given on mothercraft by the voluntary helpers and Health Visitors, and specimens of work are on view at each session.

#### ANTE-NATAL WORK.

This branch of the work is carried out by a lady Medical Officer, and there are signs that it is being more and more appreciated by the mothers ; but there is still room for more co-operation on the part of the midwives practising in the district. This would benefit both the midwives and their patients.

During 1926 12 sessions of the ante-natal clinic were held on the afternoon of the first Tuesday of the month at 2-45 p.m., when 55 mothers made 72 attendances.

During the year 20 still births were notified, and with adequate ante-natal supervision some of these could almost certainly have been prevented.

#### EXHIBITION OF EDUCATIONAL CINEMATOGRAPH FILMS.

On the afternoon of the 23rd November, 1926, an exhibition of films to which all the mothers attending the Clinic were invited was given at the Kemble Theatre. The following films were shown :—

- “ Empire Builders ” (dealing with Maternity and Child Welfare).
- “ A Place in the Sun ” (dealing with open air treatment).
- “ The White Bottle ” (dealing with the value of milk as a food).
- “ The Fight in Fairyland ” and “ The Ivory Castle ” (dealing with the care of the teeth).







## CITY

## DEATHS OF RESIDENTS

AGE IN YEARS.

[illegible]

HEREFORD.

FROM ALL CAUSES, 1926.

## LOCAL REGISTRATION RETURNS.

WARDS.

[illegible]





REPORT OF THE  
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER  
FOR 1926.

**Education Committee :**

Councillor R. H. SYMONDS-TAYLER, Mayor.

Alderman C. WITTS, *Chairman*.

Alderman G. B. GREENLAND.	Councillor A. KEAR.
Alderman A. D. STEEL.	Councillor J. VINCENT SHAW,
Alderman E. L. WALLIS.	M.B. Ch.B.
Councillor E. F. BULMER.	Councillor F. LEWIS SMITH.

*Nominated Members.*

The Ven. the ARCHDEACON OF  
HEREFORD.

Rev. A. E. DREW.

Rev. C. W. DE NORMANVILLE.

*Selected Members.*

The Very Rev. the DEAN OF  
HEREFORD.

Miss M. BULL.

Miss E. KRABBÉ.

Miss S. M. SMITH.

**Care Committee :**

Councillor R. H. SYMONDS-TAYLER, Mayor.

Alderman E. L. WALLIS, *Chairman*.

Councillor J. VINCENT SHAW, M.B., Ch.B.	Mrs. L. LILLEY.
Rev. C. W. DE NORMANVILLE.	Mrs. G. MINES.
Mrs. W. G. C. BRITTEN.	Mrs. A. C. MOORE.
Miss M. BULL.	Mrs. NICHOLSON.
Mrs. JACKSON.	Miss S. M. SMITH.
Miss E. KRABBÉ.	Mrs. TUKE.

A. P. WHITEHEAD, M.C., B.A., *Director of Education*.

**School Medical Department :**

*School Medical Officer* : A. MIDDLETON BROWN, M.A., M.D.,  
D.P.H.

*School Dental Officer* : W. VOSE DAVIES, L.D.S.

*Ear and Throat Surgeon* : WM. AINSLIE, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

*Eye Surgeon* : H. W. BARNES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*Anæsthetist* : Mrs. B. M. STALLARD, M.D., B.S.

*School Nurse* : Miss G. CLARKE, Trained Nurse, Cert. R.S.I. and  
C.M.B.

„ „ Miss M. M. SCOURFIELD, Trained Nurse, C.M.B.

„ „ Miss E. M. TARBUTT, Trained Nurse, Cert. R.S.I.  
and C.M.B.

*Record Clerk* : Miss D. BURN.

*School Attendance Officer* : E. STEPHENS.

# Annual Report for the Year 1926.

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## STAFF.

1. The Staff employed in the Medical Inspection and Treatment of Children attending the Schools under the Local Education Authority consists of:—

- (1) School Medical Officer.
- (2) School Dental Officer.
- (3) Ear and Throat Surgeon.
- (4) Anæsthetist.
- (5) Eye Surgeon.
- (6) Three School Nurses.
- (7) Clerk.

The School Medical Officer carries out the general administration of the School Medical Service, the medical inspection of routine and special cases, the work of the School Clinic for the treatment of minor ailments, and the statutory medical duties in relation to the education of physically and mentally defective children.

The School Medical Officer is also Medical Officer of Health for the City and Medical Officer in charge of the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme of the City Council.

The School Dental Officer is employed one whole day a week, and is engaged partly in routine dental inspection and partly in treatment. He devotes the rest of his time to work under the County Education Authority. Up till November, 1925, the Dentist worked only during the school hours—from 9 to 12, and 2 to 4. Since that date arrangements have been made by the Local Authority, with the approval of the Board of Education, for him to work one extra hour, from 4 to 5 p.m. This hour is occupied wholly in treatment, and on an average seven additional children have been treated each week since the commencement of the scheme.

The Ear and Throat Surgeon is engaged from time to time as cases arise. He sees all cases referred by the School Medical Officer, and advises as to and carries out operations. At operations he has the services of a local practitioner as anæsthetist.

The Eye Surgeon sees all cases referred for refraction by the School Medical Officer, examines them, and prescribes the necessary treatment. During the year he devoted eight sessions to the work. At each session he sees not more than ten cases.



The School Nurses attend at the treatment and other clinics, and at the Schools during routine medical and dental inspections. They carry out inspections at the Schools for verminous conditions, and visit the Schools and the homes of the children for the purpose of following up cases referred for treatment. They devote one half of their time to the work of the Infant and Child Welfare Department. During the year the Senior Health Visitor and School Nurse obtained the Health Visitor's Certificate recently instituted by the Ministry of Health.

The Clerk devotes half her time to the work of the School Medical Department and half to the work of the Infant and Child Welfare Department, and certain other statistical work of the Health Department.

### **CO-ORDINATION.**

2. (a). As will be seen above, the Officials carrying out most of the work of the School Medical Service are also employed in other health work in the City, so that co-ordination is complete.

(b). There are no Nursery Schools. Up to January, 1922, it had been the custom to admit children of three years of age to the Infant Departments of the Public Elementary Schools. Since 1st January, 1922, no child has been allowed to commence school before the school term during which his or her fifth birthday occurs.

(c). Children up to the age of five years are dealt with in the scheme for Maternity and Child Welfare established by the City Council, which includes supervision of the children in the homes by the Health Visitors, and the holding of a Welfare Clinic on two afternoons in each week under the supervision of a Medical Officer.

### **THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE IN RELATION TO PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.**

#### **3. SCHOOL HYGIENE.**

There are eleven Public Elementary Schools in the City, all of which are inspected under the Local Authority's Scheme for Medical Inspection. In these Schools there are fifteen departments. Three Schools are "Provided" Schools, viz., Lord Scudamore's (with three departments), St. Owen's and St. Peter's. The Infant department of the Holmer School is also "Provided." A general review of the School premises was given in the Report for 1921, and it will be sufficient to refer briefly to the subject.

With the exception of the alterations to the offices at Holmer Infants' School, referred to below, there have been no structural additions or alterations made in any of the Schools during the year.

## ACCOMMODATION AND OVERCROWDING.

The following table shows the number of children on the registers, and the accommodation provided at the Schools in October, 1925 :—

<i>School.</i>	<i>No. on Accommodation Register.      approved.</i>	
R.C. Mixed and Infants	... 315	... 312
All Saints', Infants	... 242	... 224
Blue Coat, Girls	... 301	... 420
Holmer C., Infants	... 147	... 200
Holmer C. of E., Mixed	... 235	... 294
Lord Scudamore's, Boys	... 218	... 280
Lord Scudamore's, Girls	... 231	... 250
Lord Scudamore's, Junior Mixed	301	340
St. James', Infants	... 243	... 288
St. John's, Boys	... 50	... 172
St. Martin's, Junior Mixed	... 87	... 195
St. Owen's, Boys	... 325	... 400
St. Peter's, Girls	... 146	... 260
Tupsley C. of E., Mixed and Infants	117	153
	2,958	3,788

It will be seen that the total accommodation provided is considerably in excess of the numbers on the registers.

## HEATING.

The temperature of every Class-room taken by reading a thermometer suspended in the middle of the room is recorded during each morning and afternoon session. The records are taken with care in most cases, and afford a rough guide as to the efficiency of the heating in Winter and the ventilation in Summer. Towards the end of the Coal Dispute, when the shortage of fuel was beginning to be acute, some of the Schools were found to be too cold for the efficient carrying on of the work.

## SCHOOL FURNITURE.

Dual pattern desks are in use in all the Schools, exclusively in most cases, and in others the obsolete type are being replaced by dual pattern desks, as the former become worn out. Blackboards are generally satisfactory and maintained in good order. No cases of eye-strain due to unsatisfactory blackboards have been noted.

During the year additional chairs and tables were provided for the Infants attending All Saints' and St. Martin's Schools.



## LAVATORIES AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

All the Schools are supplied with water from the Town Mains for drinking and washing. Water carriage is employed in all the sanitary conveniences, some, however, of which are of the objectionable trough-closet type. The offices at Holmer Infants' School have been partitioned to allow of separation of the sexes.

## CLEANLINESS.

The cleanliness of the Schools continues to show signs of improvement. Dusting above eye level is not carried out very satisfactory in certain of the Schools. The use of a propriety substance to prevent the raising of dust while sweeping has been successful in several of the Schools. This treatment takes the place of too frequent scrubbing, which tends to soak the floor boards and give rise to dampness under the flooring. Sufficient care in the cleansing of the sanitary offices is not always taken. Children should be educated in the proper use of these ; this object is defeated if they are kept in a foul and insanitary state through want of ordinary cleansing by the caretaker.

There are instances, I am informed, where the fouling takes place during their use after School hours by unauthorised persons. This should be prevented by providing the offices with suitable doors with locks, to be secured immediately after the scholars leave for the day.

During the Summer vacation the usual cleansing, redecorating and repairs as required were carried out.

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR DRYING BOOTS AND CLOTHING.

In six instances the cloak rooms are warmed by means of hot-water radiators. In six instances the drying is carried out by the side of a class-room fireplace. One School has a cloak-room with a fire when necessary. In one School it was reported that no special arrangements were made, but in this case it is possible that the arrangements were most efficient.

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR WARMING UP AND SERVICE OF MEALS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL BY THE CHILDREN.

In the R.C. Schools the use of the kitchen in the adjacent convent is made available. No special arrangements are made in the other Schools, but in three instances the gas-stove or the fire in the teachers' room may be used.

The undesirable practice of children bringing food to the School for consumption during the eleven o'clock interval is widespread. This should not be necessary in a district where the



majority of the children reside at no great distance from the School. If a suitable meal be provided and eaten between eight o'clock and half-past eight, the child ought to be able to do without food till half-past twelve or one o'clock. The eleven o'clock meal interferes with the digestion of the breakfast and takes the "edge" off the appetite for dinner, and encourages the bad habit of eating between meals.

## PLAYGROUND ACCOMMODATION.

The surface of several of the playgrounds is unsatisfactory.

From time to time I have had to draw attention to the practice of applying a surface dressing of sharp grit, which is most unsuitable. A rough surface is dangerous if the children fall, as abrasions and other injuries are likely to follow. The holding of open-air classes and physical drill can be carried out satisfactorily in the playground only if the surface is well drained. Only five of the Schools are provided with playground shelters.

The School windows are cleaned ~~once~~ <sup>twice</sup> a year by contract. The beneficial effect of sunlight is being recognised, and sunlight cannot penetrate dirty glass so readily as it can clean glass. Some of the Schools are surrounded by other buildings, and a certain amount of light is thereby cut off, but all should have the best possible natural lighting, and this can only be effected by more frequent cleaning of windows.

## MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Due notice of the visit of the School Medical Officer to carry out Routine Medical Inspection is sent to the Head Teacher, who is responsible for sending out notices to parents inviting them to be present at Routine Medical Inspection of their children, and asking them to supply particulars of previous illnesses and defects, to which the School Medical Officer should have his attention specially drawn. Routine Medical Inspections are carried out at every School twice during the year, so that children who are absent at the first visit, and all newly admitted scholars, are medically examined, as far as possible, in their proper age groups. The first Medical Inspection of the Entrant groups for the year is carried out after the Easter Holidays, as it is found that many of the entrants commence school at that time. The School Nurse visits the School before the Medical Officer for the purpose of weighing and measuring the children. She also makes preliminary tests of vision, so that the Medical Officer has to deal only with those children who are likely to be referred for any defect in this particular.

(a). **Age Group.**—Routine Medical Inspection is carried out of all children in the three age groups laid down by the Board of Education, viz. :—Entrants, Intermediates, and Leavers. During the year ending 31st December, 1926, the Routine Medical Inspection of 971 children was carried out. This number was made up as under :—

			<i>Entrants.</i>		<i>Intermediates.</i>		<i>Leavers.</i>
Boys	...	...	198	...	139	...	164
Girls	...	...	165	...	124	...	181
			—		—		—
Totals	...		363	...	263	...	345
			—		—		—

The corresponding figures for 1925 were :—Entrants, 474 ; Intermediates, 319 ; Leavers, 390 ; total, 1,183.

(b). There has been no departure from the Board's Schedule of Medical Inspection.

(c). **Steps Taken to Secure the Early Ascertainment of Crippling Defects.**—A card index is kept of all abnormal children who are attending Elementary Schools and of all children of school age who are not attending School. The index includes all children who are suffering from ascertained crippling defects. All such children attending School are seen as special cases at Routine Medical Inspection every year, and at such other times as may be necessary at the School Clinic. Fresh cases of children suffering from crippling defects for addition to the list are reported by the Teacher at the time of Routine Medical Inspection, and those who do not attend School are brought to the notice of the School Medical Officer by the School Attendance Officer, who also ascertains if the children are under medical supervision ; if they are not the parents are invited to bring them to the School Clinic for examination and appropriate treatment, if any is arranged, either by a private doctor or a hospital. Suitable cases are sent to the Orthopædic Centre, opened during 1922 by the local branch of the British Red Cross Society. During 1926 approval was given to send one case to the Shropshire Orthopædic Hospital, but owing to an outbreak of infectious disease in the patient's home he could not be sent till the beginning of 1927.

## 5. FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

### REVIEW OF THE FACTS DISCLOSED BY MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The following table shows the average heights and weights of Hereford children examined last year, compared with average measurements of all school children in England and Wales. Only three age groups are dealt with, as the numbers examined at other ages are too small for comparison :—



## ANTHROPOMETRY, 1926.

## HEIGHT.

Age in years.	No. examined.		Height, inches.		Average England and Wales.		Amount by which Hereford children are above or below the average.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
5 ...	179	153	41.7	41.0	40.6	40.4	+1.1	+0.6
8 ...	139	124	48.7	48.2	47.3	46.9	+1.4	+1.3
12 ...	159	180	58.9	55.3	54.8	55.4	+4.1	- 0.1

## WEIGHT.

Age in years.	No. examined.		Weight, lbs.		Average England and Wales.		Amount by which Hereford children are above or below the average.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
5 ...	179	153	39.6	38.6	38.6	37.7	+1.0	+0.9
8 ...	139	124	54.7	53.3	52.0	49.5	+2.7	+3.8
12 ...	159	180	71.0	75.1	72.6	73.8	- 1.6	+1.3

Comparing the figures with those for 1925, it is noted that the "Entrant" children are both shorter and lighter, especially the girls; the "Leaver" girls are the same height as in 1925, but are nearly three and a half pounds heavier. The general nutrition of the children is slightly better than was recorded in 1925. No cases of suffering due to actual deprivation of food were found.

(a). **Cleanliness.**—There is very little improvement in the cleanliness of the children since last year, although the standards adopted have been the same. At the Routine Inspections made by the School Nurses the percentages of verminous children set out in the following table are far from satisfactory:—

SCHOOL.	BAD.		MODERATE.		SLIGHT.		TOTAL.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
All Saints' (Infants) ...	0.9	2.0	0.9	4.0	Nil.	0.12	1.8	18.0
Blue Coat (Girls) ...	—	3.0	—	1.4	—	7.0	—	11.4
Holmer (Mixed) ...	Nil.	3.3	0.9	4.0	10.0	5.1	10.9	58.3
Holmer (Infants) ...	2.0	16.0	Nil.	4.0	16.0	22.0	18.0	42.0
Roman Catholic Mixed and Infants ...	0.9	4.3	Nil.	9.1	9.0	14.0	9.9	27.7
Scudamore (Boys) ...	Nil.	—	Nil.	—	8.0	—	8.0	—
„ (Girls) ...	—	1.1	—	.9	—	48.0	—	50.0
„ (Juniors) ...	Nil.	4.0	Nil.	5.0	4.0	24.0	4.0	32.7
St. James' (Infants) ...	1.0	6.0	Nil.	6.0	4.0	12.0	5.0	24.0
St. John's (Boys) ...	Nil.	—	Nil.	—	0.5	—	0.5	—
St. Martin's (Infants)...	2.0	Nil.	Nil.	4.0	2.0	7.0	4.0	11.0
St. Owen's (Boys) ...	2.0	—	Nil.	—	3.0	—	5.0	—
St. Peter's (Girls) ...	—	7.9	—	2.6	—	4.6	—	54.3
Tupsley (Mixed) ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	8.0	Nil.	8.0



Compared with 1925, the figure for seven departments is worse and for seven departments is better. These inspections are made by the School Nurses without previous warning to the parents. At Routine Medical Inspections by the School Medical Officer, of which the parents have due warning, 19 out of 971 children were found to be in such a verminous condition that their health was likely to suffer thereby, while a further 102 were found to be verminous in a less degree. The majority of verminous children give ample evidence by inspection and by their previous record of persistent neglect on the part of the parents or guardians. The parents of six children were proceeded against under the School Attendance Byelaws, as compared with five in 1925. An experiment in intensive inspections of the worst offenders in one girls' school which was commenced at the end of 1925, and carried on during the first quarter of 1926, did not give any satisfactory results.

There is no Cleansing Station provided by the Local Authority, but assistance is given in the cleansing of verminous children by the School Nurses in the homes of children or at the School Clinic.

(b). **Minor Ailments.**—Children suffering from minor ailments are as a rule referred to the Minor Ailment Clinic by parents or teachers. There is a tendency, however, to interpret the term "minor ailment" too widely, and in some instances the only action that can be taken at the Clinic is to refer the case to a private doctor or hospital. Seventeen cases of organic heart disease were found, 22 cases of functional heart disease, and 48 cases of anæmia. There were 47 cases of Bronchitis.

(c). **Tonsils and Adenoids.**—Fifty-one children were found to have enlarged tonsils and adenoids, and of these 22 required treatment. Seventy-nine children had enlarged tonsils only. The condition was in a minor degree in 65 of these.

(d). **Tuberculosis.**—All children who have previously been notified are seen from time to time throughout the year. As will be seen in Table 3 below, there are 17 cases of Tuberculosis among children of school age. During the year five cases of Tuberculosis (four pulmonary and one non-pulmonary) were notified amongst children of school age.

(e). **Skin Diseases.**—Ten cases of Skin Disease were found at Routine Medical Inspection—the majority of which were Impetigo or Contagious Sores. Six hundred and ninety-three cases of Skin Disease or Injuries presented themselves for treatment at the Minor Ailment Clinic.

(f). **External Eye Disease.**—There were 11 cases of Blepharitis found at Medical Inspection; one case of Corneal Opacity, and three cases of Conjunctivitis. There were 17 cases of Squint. A number of cases of External Eye Disease among children are taken to the out-patient department of the Eye Hospital.

(g). **Vision.**—Fifty-eight children were found to have defective vision at the time of Routine Medical Inspection ; of these 24 were advised to have treatment. All children are seen wearing their glasses after these have been fitted.

(h). **Ear Disease and Hearing.**—Only six cases were found at Routine Medical Inspection to require treatment. Children suffering from ear defects are usually sent to the Minor Ailment Clinic, where a more thorough examination can be carried out, and the appropriate treatment arranged. Defects in hearing are often noticed in the first instance by the Teachers.

(i). **Dental Defect.**—The School Dentist devoted 21 half-days to Dental Inspection at the Schools. Two thousand three hundred and forty-eight children were inspected, and 875 were found to require dental treatment. This represents a percentage of 37.3 referred for treatment as compared with 38.6 for the year 1925. At Routine Medical Inspection the teeth of the children are examined without the aid of a dental mirror, and it was found that 220 children out of 971 examined had four unsound teeth.

During 1926 Routine Dental Inspection has been carried out at 14 departments out of 15.

(j). **Crippling Defects.**—All children suffering from crippling defects are seen at each visit to the School for Routine Medical Inspection. Those who do not attend School are either visited at their homes by the School Nurses or seen at the School Clinic. There are 20 cripple children attending the Elementary Schools and four children not attending School.

(k). **Vaccination.**—The neglect of vaccination against Smallpox, to which I have referred in previous Reports, continues. During 1926 Smallpox was still very prevalent in England. It is true that the type of disease prevalent at the present time is mild, but we have no guarantee that it will remain so. The only certain preventive measure against Smallpox becoming epidemic throughout the country is efficient Vaccination. The following table gives the percentage of children showing no evidence of previous vaccination at the time of Routine Medical Inspection :—

			<i>Percentage Unvaccinated.</i>					
			1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Leavers—Boys	...	34	41	46	58	59	56	
Girls	...	37	40	47	58	48	51	
Intermediate—Boys	...	53	65	63	52	64	57	
Girls	...	65	63	64	61	52	62	
Entrants—Boys	...	65	71	63	76	67	74	
Girls	...	68	70	70	77	71	69	



## 6. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

All cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease are brought to the notice of the School Medical Officer in his capacity of Medical Officer of Health, and the school attendance of the patient and contacts regulated accordingly. Cases of Non-notifiable Infectious Disease are reported to the School Medical Officer by the Teachers and the School Attendance Officer. If necessary, the case is investigated by one of the School Nurses, and attendance of the case and contacts regulated under the direction of the School Medical Officer.

Among children attending the Elementary Schools during 1926, 11 cases of Scarlet Fever (five boys and six girls), 21 cases of Diphtheria (four boys and seventeen girls), and one case of Pneumonia (boy) were notified.

Thirty-nine cases of Measles and eight cases of Chicken Pox were notified by the Head Teachers.

Eleven of the cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease were found at School Medical Inspection, and notified by the School Medical Officer.

## 7. FOLLOWING-UP.

The parents of children found suffering from Physical Defects at Routine Medical Inspections are informed of this if the defect requires treatment. The report is sent on a form with counterfoil which the parent is asked to have filled up by the doctor or dentist undertaking treatment, and returned to the School Medical Officer. After a suitable interval, if the counterfoil is not returned, the child is seen again at the School by the School Nurse, and if necessary visited at home to see if treatment has been obtained.

In this connection the School Nurses paid 505 visits to the homes during the year. The following-up of children who are "under observation" is accomplished by calling them up from time to time to the School Clinic on Saturday mornings for examination by the School Medical Officer.

## 8. MEDICAL TREATMENT.

The Treatment Scheme of the Local Education Authority provides for the treatment of the following defects in children attending Public Elementary Schools :—

1. Minor Ailments.
2. Dental Defects.
3. Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids.
4. Errors of Refraction (Defective Vision).

No charge is made for the treatment of Minor Ailments. A small nominal charge, varying with the ability of the parent to pay, is made for the treatment of the other defects mentioned above.



(a). **Minor Ailments.**—The Minor Ailment Clinic is held daily at the Town Hall at 9 a.m. The School Medical Officer attends from 9.30 to 10.30 or later if necessary, and sees all cases attending for the first time to prescribe the necessary treatment and arrange absence from School if necessary. The Medical Officer sees the children from time to time during treatment, and also on completion of treatment before return to School.

The Minor Ailment Clinic is the clearing house for treatment of all defects undertaken by the Local Authority, and from it the various forms of treatment by Specialists are arranged.

The educative and preventive function of the Clinic must not be lost sight of, as many parents think the Clinic is to take the place of the private doctor or the Hospital Out-Patient Department. In 1926 the number of children treated was 1,448. The total number of attendances was 8,751.

(b). **Tonsils and Adenoids.**—Fifty-five children were examined by the Throat Surgeon, and 37 were recommended for operation. Of these 27 were operated on under the Local Authority's Scheme, and 10 were operated on in hospital or privately. After the operation the parents are instructed as to the necessity of giving the child breathing exercise; but it is often found that this is either neglected altogether or carried out in a perfunctory manner.

(c). **Tuberculosis.**—Seventeen children of school age have been notified as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and are kept under observation by the County Tuberculosis Officer. A number of children—many of whom have a family history of Tuberculosis—are kept under observation as suspected cases and pre-tuberculous cases. During the year 11 such cases (four boys and seven girls) and one notified case derived considerable benefit from a stay in the Children's Department of the County Sanatorium at Almeley.

(d). **Skin Diseases.**—The various Skin Diseases dealt with are set out in Table 4 below. It will be seen that a large number of the cases are Impetigo. This is a condition where small abrasions of the skin become infected and festering sores are set up. This condition is usually associated with the lack of cleanliness of the skin, and the timely application of soap and water in sufficient quantity would do much to prevent the condition. As the condition is contagious, it gives rise to much absenteeism, and, as it is preventable, its treatment at the School Clinic takes up the time of the School Nurses unnecessarily.

The 373 cases classified as "Other Skin Diseases" in Table 4 include bruises, cuts, and sores of the skin other than cases of Impetigo. Eighteen cases of Ringworm of Head and 17 cases of Ringworm of the Body were treated by local applications. Treatment of this condition by means of X-Rays is not undertaken by

the Authority. A small outbreak of Scabies occurred after the Summer holiday, probably associated with hop-picking.

(e). **External Eye Disease.**—These cases are dealt with mainly at the Minor Ailment Clinic. Serious cases are referred to the Eye Hospital or to a private doctor. Seventeen cases were treated at the Minor Ailment Clinic during the year.

(f). **Vision.**—Children suffering from defective vision and squint, who require treatment, are mostly treated under the Scheme of the Local Education Authority. During the year 74 children submitted to treatment at the Eye Clinic; seven were treated by a private practitioner or at hospital. Fuller particulars are given in Table 4 below.

(g). **Ear Disease and Hearing.**—Seventy-eight children received treatment at the Minor Ailment Clinic for diseases of the ear—chiefly Otorrhœa and Wax Plugs.

(h). **Dental Defects.**—The treatment of Dental defects is carried out at the School Clinic on Fridays, when the School Dentist is not engaged in Routine Medical Inspection at the Schools. Sixty-eight half days were devoted to Dental treatment. Five hundred and forty-five children were treated, and 114 were re-treated as a result of periodical examination. More work could be done if time permitted. The arrangement that the Dentist works from 4 to 5 in the afternoon helps, but if all the parents were to avail themselves of the facilities offered, this extra hour would not be sufficient. Many parents do not avail themselves of this important branch of the Authority's Treatment Scheme; although the importance of conservative dental treatment in maintaining the general health is being more and more appreciated by the Medical profession. Two hundred and twenty-three parents stated that they did not desire the treatment recommended by the School Dentist to be carried out.

(i). **Crippling Defects and Orthopædies.**—Treatment for these defects is available at the British Red Cross Orthopædic Clinic or at the recently organised Orthopædic Department at the Herefordshire General Hospital.

## 9. OPEN-AIR EDUCATION.

Physical exercises are given in the School playground in fine weather, and during the Summer certain other classes are taught in the playground. Instructions in Horticulture and Nature Study is given in some of the Schools, and visits to factories have been undertaken in at least one School. There are no School Camps, Open-Air Class-rooms, Day Open-Air Schools or Residential Open-Air Schools in the City.



## 10. PHYSICAL TRAINING.

Beyond recommending children to be excused drill on account of certain physical conditions, the School Medical Officer is not associated with the work of Physical Training. A Play-Centre is provided at Lord Scudamore's School every School-day evening during the Winter. There is no Area Organiser for Physical Training, but this has engaged the attention of the Authority during the year. It has been revealed by the Medical Inspection that the physique of approximately 400 children attending the Elementary Schools is sub-normal. These children are likely to benefit by physical exercises additional to those already given. Such children are under the supervision of the Authority for nine years—roughly one-eighth of their lives—and as has been said the “opportunity is fleeting.” As an alternative, I would suggest for the consideration of the Authority the establishment of a special school on open-air lines in the centre of the City, where such children and those suffering from mental retardation might receive education more suited to their several conditions.

## 11. PROVISION OF MEALS.

No action has been taken by the Authority under the Provision of Meals Acts, 1906–1914.

## 12. SCHOOL BATHS.

There are no School Baths, but arrangements are made by the Authority whereby school children can attend the Public Baths and obtain instruction in swimming. During 1926 100 boys and 69 girls obtained certificates of proficiency in swimming.

In life-saving, four girls and three boys obtained proficiency certificates, and four girls and sixteen boys obtained elementary certificates.

## 13. CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

As noted above, parents are invited to attend Routine Medical Inspections, and in order that as many parents or guardians as possible may avail themselves of the opportunity of being present while the School Medical Officer is in the School, the Routine Medical Inspections are carried out as far as possible in the afternoons. In spite of this, it is a matter for regret that so few parents were present. Household and other duties no doubt prevent a few parents, but the majority could attend, and, apart from any advantage to themselves, they can assist the School Medical Officer very much in assessing the physical condition of their children. Nine hundred and ninety children were examined, but in only



374 cases was the parent or guardian present. Other relatives attended in 181 cases. In many cases, too, children attend the Minor Ailment Clinic without their parents. In such cases, no instruction as to home treatment can be given. It is very common to find that children are brought to the Minor Ailment Clinic suffering from condition much more than minor ailments, which require treatment in the home by a doctor. Although the parents are advised by the School Medical Officer to obtain such treatment, in many cases it is not obtained, and the result is that the child returns to School after a more or less prolonged period of absence "patched up," and not cured, and so falls easy prey to the next prevalent illness. Poverty is undoubtedly the cause of this neglect in some cases, and in this connection there would appear to be opportunity for a far wider use of the Provident Branch of the Hereford Dispensary. There has recently been launched a successful contributory scheme in connection with the Herefordshire General Hospital, but the fact must not be lost sight of that the proper time to attack disease is at its first beginning, and the proper place to do that is in the home by the family doctor.

#### 14. CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS.

(1). The Teachers assist in the preparation of children for Medical Inspection, draw the attention of the School Medical Officer to children who should be referred to as "Specials," and send out the notices to parents announcing the time and date of inspections.

(2). Assistance in "following-up" is given in several ways, more especially in seeing that the children wear spectacles when those have been prescribed.

(3). The attendances at the Minor Ailment Clinic of children who are attending School is facilitated by the Teachers sending the children to the Clinic after they have been marked present for the morning session.

In one or two of the Schools co-operation in the matter of cleanliness of the children has had very satisfactory results.

#### 15. CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICER.

There is only one School Attendance Officer who is in daily close personal touch with the School Medical Department and who co-operates in all branches of the work.

The usual notices of children excluded from or re-admitted to School by the School Medical Officer are sent to the School Attendance Committee.

## 16. CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES.

The work of the School Medical Department is directed by the Care Sub-Committee of the Education Committee. This Committee consists partly of elected members of the Town Council and partly of co-opted members, and its members visit the School from time to time to see that their recommendations are carried out.

They also assist in "following-up" cases where treatment is unduly delayed by refractory parents and cases of mentally defective children of whom the parents are unwilling to take the advantages offered by the Education Authority.

There is also co-operation with the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and with the Distress Committee, to which cases requiring temporary assistance, either in boots or clothing for children attending the Public Elementary Schools are referred. Cases requiring assistance are also reported from time to time to the Charities administered by the various religious bodies in the City.

## 17. BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE, AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

Such children of school age are brought to the notice of the School Medical Officer by Teachers, the School Nurses, or the School Attendance Officer.

Form 41D of the Board of Education is furnished by the Head Teacher in respect of all children who are two or more years educationally retarded. All children who are abnormal as above are reported to the Education Authority and recommendation made as to how they should be dealt with.

As there is no Special School or Special Class in the Area it generally means that if education is to be provided the child has to be sent away, and the consent of the parent is generally withheld. The result is that many educable mentally defective children remain at the ordinary Elementary Schools, where they are a hindrance to the ordinary School work.

Such defective children as are unable to attend School are visited in their homes from time to time by the School Nurses.

## 18, 19, 20.

There are no Nursery Schools. The Secondary and Continuation Schools are under the control of the County Education Authority.

## 21. EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

(1). The employment of children and young persons is regulated by Byelaws which came into force on the 1st January, 1921. At the end of the year there were two girls and twenty-three boys on the register of employed children kept by the Authority. Three Medical Certificates under Article 5(a) of the Byelaws were issued during the year.

(2). A Medical Report based on the latest available Inspection is furnished on the Labour Card of each leaver child, for information of the Juvenile Employment Committee. The Committee meets monthly, and the School Medical Officer attends in an advisory capacity.

(3). No case of injury to health or physical development occasioned by employment has been noted during the year.

## 22. SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS.

The School Medical Officer has filled in the Schedules sent out by the Board's Committee on Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids in as many cases as time has permitted.

TABLE I.

### RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS (1926).

#### *A.—Routine Medical Inspections.*

##### NUMBER OF CODE GROUP INSPECTIONS—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	363
Intermediates		...	...	...	...	263
Leavers	...	...	...	...	...	345
Total		...	...			971

NUMBER OF OTHER ROUTINE INSPECTIONS. ... 19

#### *B.—Other Inspections.*

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	1437
Number of Re-Inspections	...	...	1368
Total	...	...	2,805



TABLE II.

## MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS.

A. RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN  
THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1926.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.				ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.	
				No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
				Requir- ing Treat- ment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring Treatment.	Requir- ing Treat- ment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring Treatment.
(1)				(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Skin	Malnutrition			—	132	—	3
	Uncleanliness :			19	102	—	1
	(See Table IV., Group V.)						
	Ringworm :						
	Scalp			—	—	18	—
	Body			—	—	17	—
	Scabies			—	—	13	—
Eye	Impetigo			8	3	79	—
	Other Diseases (Non-Tuber- culous)			3	3	597	—
	Blepharitis			5	6	—	2
	Conjunctivitis			2	1	—	—
	Keratitis			—	—	—	—
	Corneal Opacities			—	1	—	—
	Defective Vision (excluding Squint)			24	34	95	1
Ear	Squint			10	7	—	—
	Other Conditions			1	—	—	—
	Defective Hearing			4	13	62	—
Nose and Throat	Otitis Media			2	11	—	—
	Other Ear Diseases			—	1	—	—
	Enlarged Tonsils only			14	65	—	—
	Adenoids only			1	5	—	—
Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tuber- culous)	Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids.			22	30	—	1
	Other Conditions			—	1	—	—
Defective Speech				4	9	—	2
Teeth—Dental Diseases (see note <i>a</i> ) (See Table IV., Group IV.)				220	198	2	2
Heart and Circula- tion	Heart Disease :						
	Organic			4	13	—	—
	Functional			—	22	—	—
Anæmia				4	44	—	2

Lungs	{	Bronchitis ... ..	5	42	—	—
		Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	—	1	—	—
Tuber- culosis	{	Pulmonary :				
		Definite ... ..	—	—	—	—
		Suspected ... ..	—	7	—	—
		Non-Pulmonary :				
		Glands ... ..	—	2	—	—
		Spine ... ..	—	—	—	—
		Hip ... ..	—	—	—	—
		Other Bones and Joints	—	—	—	—
	{	Skin ... ..	—	1	—	—
		Other Forms ... ..	—	—	—	—
Ner- vous System	{	Epilepsy ... ..	—	1	—	—
		Chorea ... ..	2	—	—	—
		Other Conditions ... ..	1	—	—	—
Deform- ities	{	Rickets ... ..	1	16	—	—
		Spinal Curvature ... ..	2	3	—	—
		Other Forms ... ..	—	4	—	—
Other Defects and Diseases ... ..			4	—	554	—

B. NUMBER OF *individual children* (see note b) FOUND AT *Routine Medical Inspection* TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS AND DENTAL DISEASES).

GROUP.	NUMBER OF CHILDREN.		Percentage of Children found to require Treatment (see note d).
	Inspected (See note c).	Found to require Treatment.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
CODE GROUPS :—			
Entrants ... ..	363	49	13.4
Intermediates ... ..	263	30	11.4
Leavers ... ..	345	38	11.0
Total (Code Groups) ... ..	971	107	11.0
Other Routine Inspections ... ..	19	8	42.0

NOTES ON TABLE II.

(a) The figures to be included in this space should refer to the findings of the *Medical Officer* and not those resulting from dental inspection in the schools by the *School Dentist*. The findings of the *School Dentist* should be recorded in Table IV., Group IV.

(b) No individual child should be counted more than once in this part of Table II., *i.e.*, under B, even if it is found to be suffering from more than one defect.

(c) The figures in this column will of course be the same as those given in Table I. A.

(d) The figure in this column will be the percentage of the figure in column (3) of that in column (2).

Table III.—RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA.

				Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blind (including Partially Blind).	(1)— Suitable for training in a School or Class for the Totally Blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind	...	...	...	...
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	...
		At other Institutions	...	...	...	...
		At no School or Institution	...	...	...	...
	(2)— Suitable for training in a School or Class for the Partially Blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind	...	...	...	...
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	3	1	4
		At other Institutions	...	...	...	...
		At no School or Institution	...	1	0	1
Deaf (including Deaf and Dumb and Partially Deaf).	(1)— Suitable for training in a School or Class for the Totally Deaf or Deaf and Dumb.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf	...	1	0	1
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	...
		At other Institutions	...	...	...	...
		At no School or Institution	...	...	...	...
	(2)— Suitable for training in a School or Class for the Partially Deaf.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf	...	...	...	...
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	1	0	1
		At no School or Institution	...	...	...	...



			Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Mentally Defectives	Feeble-minded (cases not notifiable to the Local Control Authority).	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defectives	...	...	...	
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	9	8	17	
		At other Institutions ...	...	...	...	
		At no School or Institution	...	...	...	
	Notified to the Local Control Authority during the year.	Feeble-minded	2	1	3	
		Imbeciles	...	...	...	
		Idiots	...	...	...	
	Suffering from severe Epilepsy.	Attending Certified Special Schools for Epileptics	...	...	...	
		In Institutions other than Special Schools ...	...	...	...	
		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	...	...	...	
		At no School or Institution	1	2	3	
Epileptics ...	Suffering from Epilepsy which is not severe.	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	...	3	3	

			Physically Defectives ...		
			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Infectious Pulmonary and Glandular Tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry or Board	...	...	...	...
		...	...	...	...
Non-Infective but active Pulmonary and Glandular Tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board	...	...	...	...
		At Certified Residential Open-Air Schools	...	...	...
		At Certified Day Open-Air Schools	...	...	...
		At Public Elementary Schools	8	9	17
		At other Institutions	...	...	...
		At no School or Institution	...	...	...
Delicate Children (pre or latent Tuberculosis, malnutrition, debility, anæmia, etc.)	At Certified Residential Open-Air Schools	...	...	...	...
		At Certified Day Open-Air Schools	...	...	...
		At Public Elementary Schools	1	...	1
		At other Institutions	...	...	...
Active Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Hospital approved by the Ministry or the Board	...	...	...	...
		At Public Elementary Schools	1	1	2
		At other Institutions	...	...	...
		At no School or Institution	...	1	1
Crippled Children (other than those with Tuberculous disease— <i>e.g.</i> , Children suffering from Paralysis, etc., and including those with severe heart disease).	At Certified Hospital Schools	...	...	...	...
		At Certified Residential Cripple Schools	...	...	...
		At Certified Day Cripple Schools	...	...	...
		At Public Elementary Schools	11	9	20
		At other Institutions	...	...	...
		At no School or Institution	3	1	4

TABLE IV.

TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1926.

The following statement should cover a period of twelve consecutive months. Whenever this period does not coincide with the calendar year (1st January—31st December) the period to which the returns refer should be stated.

The methods adopted for Treatment and the general results obtained should be included in the body of the Report.

GROUP I.

A.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS.

<i>Disease or Defect.</i>	NUMBER OF CHILDREN.			
	<i>Referred for Treat- ment.</i>	TREATED.		
		<i>Under Local Education Authority's Scheme.</i>	<i>Other- wise.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
SKIN—				
Ringworm—Head ... ..	18	18	...	18
Ringworm—Body ... ..	17	17	...	17
Scabies ... ..	13	11	2	13
Impetigo ... ..	79	78	1	79
Minor Injuries ... ..	207	196	11	207
Other skin disease ... ..	390	373	14	387
EAR DISEASE ... ..	62	58	3	61
EYE DISEASE (external and other) ... ..	94	78	14	92
MISCELLANEOUS ... ..	554	278	246	524

TABLE IV.

GROUP II.

DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS DEALT WITH.			
	<i>Under the Authority's Scheme.</i>	<i>Submitted to refrac- tion by private practitioner or at Hospital apart from the Authority's Scheme.</i>	<i>Other- wise.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(1)				
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) ...	74	7	...	81
Total ...	74	7	...	81



Total number of children for whom Spectacles were prescribed	...	70
(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	... ..	63
(b) Otherwise	... ..	7
Total number of children who obtained Spectacles	... ..	70
(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	... ..	63
(b) Otherwise	... ..	7

## GROUP III.

## TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

## NUMBER OF DEFECTS.

RECEIVED OPERATIVE TREATMENT.			Received other forms of treatment. (4)	Total (5)
<i>Under the Authority's Scheme in Clinic or Hospital. (1)</i>	<i>By Private Practitioner or Hospital apart from the Authority's Scheme. (2)</i>	<i>Total. (3)</i>		
28	10	38	3	41

## GROUP IV.

## DENTAL DEFECTS.

(1) Number of children who were :—

(a) Inspected by the Dentist :—

Aged	5	...	273	}	TOTAL	...	...	2,309
	6	...	209					
	7	...	218					
	8	...	256					
	9	...	234					
	10	...	243					
	11	...	261					
	12	...	244					
	13	...	214					
	14	...	157					
Specials	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Grand Total			...	...	...	...	...	2,348

(b) Found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	875
(c) Actually treated	...	...	...	...	545
(d) Re-treated during the year as the result of periodical inspection	...	...	...	...	114

**Dental Defects—cont.**

(2)	Half-days devoted to—					
		Inspection ...	...	21	}	Total ... 89
		Treatment ...	...	68		
(3)	Attendances made by children for treatment ...					963
(4)	Fillings—					
		Permanent Teeth	...	556	}	Total ... 559
		Temporary Teeth	...	3		
(5)	Extractions—					
		Permanent Teeth	...	70	}	Total ... 484
		Temporary Teeth	...	414		
(6)	Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions					Nil.
(7)	Other operations—					
		Permanent Teeth	...	386	}	Total ... 417
		Temporary Teeth	...	31		

**GROUP V.****UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.**

1.	Average number of visits per School made during the year by the School Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	4.8
2.	Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by the School Nurses:—						
	Individuals	...	...	...	...	...	2,799
	Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	10,859
3.	Number of individual children found unclean				...	...	438
4.	Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
5.	Number of cases in which Legal Proceedings were taken—						
	(a) Under the Education Act	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
	(b) Under the School Attendance Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	6



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